Application No.: 09/746,917

REMARKS

Claims 10, 12, 14, 25, 27 and 29 are pending in this application.

Claims 10, 12, 14, 25, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chislenko et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,049) in view of Hosken (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,579). The Examine cited Chislenko for teaching a memory, a device, responsive to a user request, for recording an item on a hardcopy medium (col. 14, lines 7-10); wherein the memory stores user profiled for users of the system (102, fig. 3), wherein each user profile includes a set of user preferences pertaining to items and wherein the processor, responsive to the recorded item, updates the user profiles with the implicit rating of the record item (col. 3, lines 4-67 and col. 7, lines 58-60); wherein the processor further stores a representation of the recorded item in memory and determines an item similarity for records item with other items stored in the memory (104, fig. 3); by comparing the stored representation of the recorded item with the stored representations of other recorded items in the memory (106, fig. 3); wherein the processor characterizes content of the recorded item using linguistic tools and wherein the processor determines an item to item similarity between two recorded items by calculating a sum of weights of keywords in common divided by a sum of weights of all key words associated with the two recorded items (col. 19, lines 55-60). The Examiner cited Hosken for teaching wherein recording the item on a hardcopy medium comprises an implicit rating for the item by the user (col. 7, lines 31-50). Applicants respectfully disagree.

     1.   <u>Chislenko does not teach "a device, responsive to a user request, for recording an item on a hardcopy medium</u>". The only teaching in Chislenko regarding a printer (or recording device) is as a means of displaying a list of recommendations to a user. Chislenko at col. 14, lines 7-10, states "Recommendations can take any of a number of forms. For example, recommended items may be output as a list, either <u>printed on paper by a printer,</u> visually displayed on a display screen, or read aloud." The only other reference s to a printer in Chislenko teach that a printer is a device for displaying recommendation to a user (see col. 27, lines 1-3, and col. 28, lines 25-35 and lines 36-46). A recommender system displaying a list of recommended items (or printing them out on paper by a printer) or use by a user is not the same

8

Application No.: 09/746,917

as when a user requests printing an item on a paper by a printer. Recording the item on a hardcopy medium (e.g., printing an item requested by the user) comprises an implicit rating for the item by the user.

2. <u>Chislenko does not teach or suggest that recording an item on a hardcopy medium comprises an implicit rating for the item by the user.</u> Chislenko's system recognizes that ratings can be inferred from the user's usage pattern, such as how long a user views a Web page (see col. 4, lines 44-59). However, Chislenko's system does not recognize that the act of printing an item in response to a user request could be used as an implicit rating for the item by the user. Indeed, most of the description of Chislenko's system pertains to eliciting explicit ratings from users. "Ratings that are inferred by the system may be assumed to be less valid than ratings that are actually entered by the user." See col. 5, lines 32-34.

3. <u>Hosken does not teach or suggest that recording an item on a hardcopy medium comprises an implicit rating for the item by the user; Hosken teaches that browsing actions can be used as implicit ratings.</u> According to Hosken, "the level of interest in particular recommended media content items, particularly as can be inferred through the browsing of such recommendations . . . is stored as part of the user profile" (col. 7, lines 38-42). See also Fig. 3, elements 88 and 80. As best Hoskens is understood, there is no mention of recording an item on a hardcopy medium; there is no recognition in Hoskens that the act of printing an item in response to a user request could be used as an implicit rating for the item by the user.

4. <u>Hosken's system is entirely virtual; there are no printers or other recording devices in Hoskens.</u> As best Hoskens is understood, users rate items online when viewing the items; there are no printers or other recording devices used to generating ratings. See Fig. 1 of Hosken and col. 4, lines 29-44. "The system and methods . . . provide for a user, operating a user computer system 12 with a network access supported interface 14, such as a conventional Web browser application, to access and navigate, via a communications network 16, through information presented by a server computer system 18." The only mention of "recording" in the Examiner cited quotation is at col. 7, lines 37-39: "A history of the recommendation sets presented to a user may also be <u>recorded</u> in or stored in connection with the user profile."
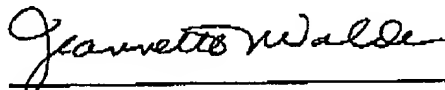
9

Application No.: 09/746,917

Nothing in Chislenko et al. or Hoskens, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a system or method for generating recommendations, which uses as implicit ratings, the fact of items being recorded on hardcopy medium by users. None of the references cited even recognizes that recording the item on a hardcopy medium comprises an implicit rating for the item by the user as taught by Applicants.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,

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Xerox Corporation
Santa Ana, California
Date: October 14, 2005

10